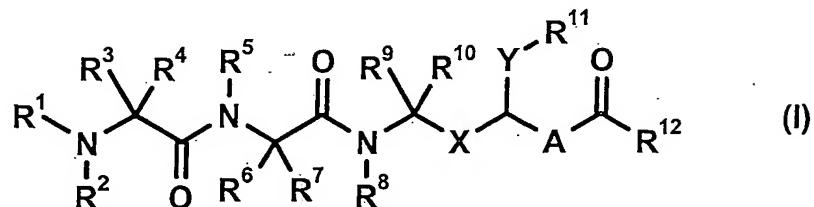


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-6. (cancelled)

Claim 7. (previously presented) A compound of the general formula U-V-W, wherein U refers to the formula (I),



wherein

A is an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered heteroarylen ring;

X is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a group of the formula NR13 or CR14R15;

Y is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or a group of the formula NR16,

R1, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup> and R<sup>16</sup> are independently of each other H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, heteroalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, alkylcycloalkyl, heteroalkylcycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl,

or two of R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup> and R<sup>16</sup> constitute part of a cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl ring system;

V is a linker and W is a polymer or a biomolecule.

Claim 8. (previously presented) A compound of claim 7 where in the compound of the formula (I) is Tubulysin A.

Claim 9. (previously presented) A compound of claim 7 wherein the polymer is a polyethylene glycol.

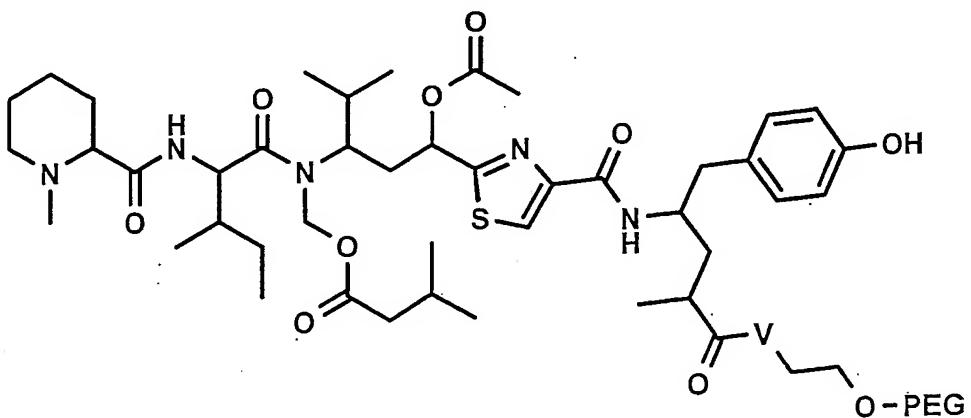
Claim 10. (previously presented) A compound of claim 9 wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of more than 30 kDa.

Claim 11. (previously presented) A compound of claim 7 wherein the biomolecule is an antibody.

Claim 12. (previously presented) A method for treating a patient suffering cancer, comprising administering to the patient one or more compounds of claim 7.

Claim 13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the patient is identified as suffering from cancer and the one or more compounds are administered to the identified patient.

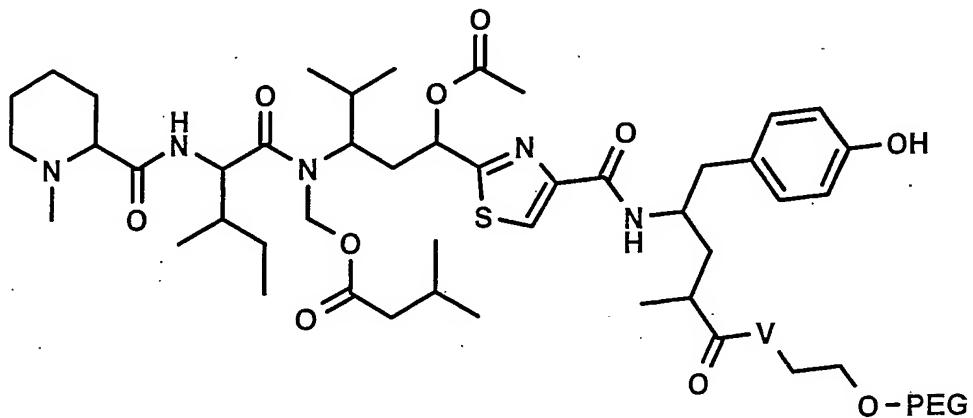
Claim 14. (new) A compound of claim 7 having the following formula:



wherein V is an oxygen atom; a NH group; a group of the formula  $-O-(CR^aR^b)n-O-$  where  $R^a$  and  $R^b$  are independently  $C_1-C_6$ alkyl groups or together part of cycloalkyl group and n is 1 or 2;  $-NH-R^c-NH-CO-CH_2-O-$ ;  $-O-R^c-O-CH_2-O-$ ; or a group of the formula  $-O-R^c-O-$  where  $R^c$  is alkylene, arylene or a cycloalkylene group.

Claim 15. (new) The compound of claim 14 wherein V is oxygen.

Claim 16. (new) The method of claim 12 wherein a compound having the following formula is administered:



wherein V is an oxygen atom; a NH group; a group of the formula  $-O-(CR^aR^b)n-O-$  where  $R^a$  and  $R^b$  are independently  $C_1-C_6$ alkyl groups or together part of cycloalkyl group and n is 1 or 2;  $-NH-R^c-NH-CO-CH_2-O-$ ;  $-O-R^c-O-CH_2-O-$ ; or a group of the formula  $-O-R^c-O-$  where  $R^c$  is alkylene, arylene or a cycloalkylene group.

Claim 17. (new) The method of claim 16 wherein V is oxygen.